

## Message Text

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15

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /032 W

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P 060938Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1129

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO COE RIYADH

COE MEDDIV LIVORNO

COE WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3185

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ETEL, SA

SUBJECT: SAG REQUEST THAT CORPS OF ENGINEERS OVERSEE CONSTRUCTION  
OF RADIO BROADCASTING FACILITIES

REF STATE 99694

1. SAG MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WISHES CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO OVERSEE CONSTRUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY SEVEN RADIO BROADCASTING FACILITIES IN COUNTRY. REQUEST WAS FIRST MADE BY DEPMININFO FAHAD SUDAIRY TO DISTRICT ENGINEER, WHO REQUESTED THAT OFFICIAL REQUEST BE MADE THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY CHANNELS. REQUEST WAS MADE ORALLY IN EARLY APRIL BY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS ABDARRAHMAN AL-MANSURI. WE WERE AWAITING FORMAL REQUEST IN WRITING FROM MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, BUT NOW HAVE RECEIVED FOLLOW-UP INQUIRY FROM DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MASUD, WHO OBVIOUSLY THINKS BALL IS IN OUR COURT. BELIEVE WE CAN NOW REGARD THIS WRITTEN FOLLOW-UP AS THE OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR WHICH WE HAD BEEN WAITING.

2. SINCE EARLIER AGREEMENT WITH SAG ON CONSTRUCTION OF RADIO AND TELEVISION FACILITIES WAS ALLOWED TO EXPIRE IN JULY 1973, NEW AGREEMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED IF WE  
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RESPOND POSITIVELY TO LATEST REQUEST. IN ANTICIPATION

OF FUTURE REQUESTS TO UNDERTAKE WORK IN THE CIVILIAN OR NON-MILITARY SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY, EMBASSY WONDERS IF MOST CONVENIENT WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WOULD NOT BE TO AMEND ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT OF 1965 TO ALLOW FOR ACCEPTANCE OF NON-MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS PROPOSED BY MINISTRIES OTHER THAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. ALTERNATIVELY, IF UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS WITH SAUDI PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (PWD) SEEM LIKELY TO LEAD TO AGREEMENT FOR COE ASSISTANCE TO PWD, PERHAPS NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD BE WRITTEN IN SUCH A WAY THAT COE COULD TAKE ON MINISTRY OF INFORMATION PROJECT AND SUBSEQUENT REQUESTS UNDER PWD AGREEMENT. REQUEST COMMENTS FROM COE ON THIS POINT. IT SEEMS TO EMBASSY THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE ONE OVERALL AGREEMENT WITH SAG FOR NON-MILITARY PROJECTS RATHER THAN TO PROLIFERATE A SERIES OF AGREEMENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL MINISTRIES. EMBASSY OFFICER WILL SEEK TO ASCERTAIN DURING UPCOMING COE DISCUSSIONS WITH PWD WHETHER PWD IS APPROPRIATE SAUDI INSTITUTION FOR CONCLUDING AGREEMENT ON NON-MILITARY CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT COE IS HEAVILY COMMITTED AT PRESENT. SIMILARLY, WE DO NOT REGARD MINISTRY OF INFORMATION REQUEST AS PARTICULARLY HIGH PRIORITY ITEM. WE CAN, HOWEVER, EXPECT SUBSEQUENT REQUESTS FOR COE ASSISTANCE IN OTHER, NON-MILITARY PROJECTS AND DO BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO RESPOND POSITIVELY IF CORPS CAN ABSORB ADDITIONAL WORK.

4. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO TAKE ON MINISTRY OF INFORMATION REQUEST.

B. COMMENT ON PREFERRED METHOD OF ESTABLISHING NECESSARY AGREEMENT WITH SAG TO COVER THIS AND SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS.  
AKINS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** woolflhd  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** MASS, ETETL, SA, US, USA CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
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